



NAUGATUCK VALLEY COUNCIL of GOVERNMENTS

49 Leavenworth Street, 3rd Floor, Waterbury, CT 06702 • 203-757-0535 • 203-735-8688 • nvcogct.gov

MINUTES

Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

NVCOG Conference Room
49 Leavenworth St., 3rd Floor
Waterbury, CT
10 a.m., Friday, January 10, 2020

NVCOG Representatives: Sheila O'Malley, Alternate, Ansonia; Gerry Smith, First Selectman, Beacon Falls; Len Assard, First Selectman, Bethlehem; Ellen Zoppo-Sassu, Mayor, Bristol; Rich Dziekan, Mayor, Derby; Ed St. John, First Selectman, Middlebury; Pete Hess, Mayor, Naugatuck; George Temple, First Selectman, Oxford; Dave Merchant, Mayor, Plymouth; Bob Chatfield, Mayor, Prospect; Kurt Miller, First Selectman, Seymour; Mark Lauretti, Mayor, Shelton; George Bertram, Proxy, Southbury; Ed Mone, First Selectman, Thomaston; Judy Mancini, Proxy, Waterbury; Tom Dunn, Mayor, Wolcott; Maryellen Edwards, Alternate, Woodbury.

Guests/Other: Valerie Knight-DiGangi, Valley Community Foundation; Sara Radacsi, CTDOT; Hedy Ayers, Samantha LaBonne, Eversource; April Chaplin, Meg Haffner, The Kennedy Center; Ellen Graham, Senator Blumenthal's Office, members of the public.

Staff: Rick Dunne, Mark Nielsen, Aaron Budris, Joanna Rogalski, Glenda Prentiss, Lauren Rizzo, Christian Meyer, John DiCarlo, Karen Svetz, Michael Szpryngel, Richard Crowther, Jr., Gabriel Filer, Keith Rosenfeld, Olivia Brandi, Ricardo Rodriguez, Lesley Barewin.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Valerie Knight-DiGangi, Program Officer at the Valley Community Foundation, gave a presentation entitled "The 2019 Valley Community Index: Understanding the Valley Region."

1. Commencement of Meeting (Pledge of Allegiance, Roll Call, Public Comment)

Vice Chair Mark Lauretti called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. Those in attendance recited the Pledge of Allegiance and the roll was called.

For public comment, Hedy Ayers announced Eversource Energy would host an energy efficiency webinar for municipal officials in February. Samantha LaBonne, also of Eversource, stated that the utility has established a goal to be carbon neutral by 2030.

2. Report from the Nominating Committee and Election of 4 NVCOG Officers and 5 At-Large Executive Committee Members to Serve 1/1/20 – 12/31/21

Tom Dunn presented the Nominating Committee's report.

Officers

Neil O'Leary – Chair
Mark Lauretti – Vice Chair
Pete Hess – Treasurer
Ed Mone – Secretary

Executive Committee

Leonard Assard
Richard Dziekan
Thomas Dunn
David Merchant
Kurt Miller

Mr. Dunn said if other NVCOG representatives are interested in serving on the Executive Committee, some of the existing members would be willing to step aside. He stressed the need for officers and committee members to be actively engaged in NVCOG activities.

There were no other nominations from the floor. Following discussion, on a motion by George Temple, seconded by Ed St. John, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the recommendation of the Nominating Committee for officers and executive committee members to serve from 1/1/20 to 12/31/21.

3. **NVCOG Administrative Items**

- a. *Approval of the Minutes of the December 13, 2019 NVCOG and CNVMPO Meeting* – On a motion by Ed Mone, seconded by Pete Hess, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the minutes of the December 13, 2019 NVCOG and CNVMPO meeting.

- b. *Approval of Agency Financial Report and Summaries for Period Ending 11/30/19* – Michael Szpryngel noted that the final audit report is complete. There have been no statistically significant changes from the draft report and no findings. On a motion by Ed Mone, seconded by Kurt Miller, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the NVCOG financial report as presented.

- c. *Director's Report*

- NVision 2020 – Rick Dunne noted that this will be a follow-up to the original event held in 2016. Fundraising and corporate sponsors will be used to fund the event. NVision 2020 will cover the work of NVCOG and the priorities for the region.
- Legislative Update – Mr. Dunne noted there may be an adjustment in the funding of COGs. Regional Performance Incentive funding will also be a focus in the upcoming legislative session.
- Naugatuck Valley Rail Conference – This conference will take place on January 13, 2020 in Naugatuck. Members of the legislative delegation will be in attendance. Pete Hess stated that a comprehensive, cost effective plan that starts with immediate improvement to Waterbury Branch Line rail service will be presented. On a motion by George Temple, seconded by Ed St. John, it was unanimously

VOTED: To endorse the NVCOG regional vision and priorities for rail.

4. **2020-2021 Preliminary Budget Adoption**

Rick Dunne explained that a preliminary budget must be voted on in January of each year in order to supply the towns with budget targets and to send out dues notices. Following review of the budget, which included a dues increase of 3%, on a motion by Rich Dziekan, seconded by Pete Hess, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adopt the preliminary budget targets as presented, and to endorse and direct the issuance of preliminary dues notices.

5. **Resolutions of Support for RPIP Applications**

- a. *Approval of NVCOG Resolution 2020-08 – Brownfields Center of Excellence* – Before addressing each RPIP application in detail, Rick Dunne noted they all had been submitted by the December 31 deadline. Additionally, OPM requires that resolutions and any supplemental documents be submitted in February. Additional town resolutions may also be required.

Mr. Dunne then explained the RPIP Brownfields Center of Excellence application, if approved, would provide funds to NVCOG to study and implement an efficient program for the State to subsidize and administer brownfield redevelopment projects on behalf of all municipalities, bringing together all statutory powers, regulatory tools, and management expertise. On a motion by Ed Mone, seconded by Sheila O'Malley, it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve NVCOG Resolution 2020-08 to authorize the proposal for funding through the Regional Performance Incentive Program to study and implement a Brownfields Center of Excellence Program.

- b. *Approval of NVCOG Resolution 2020-09 – Regional Open Space Inventory* – Mr. Dunne explained that this project would ultimately benefit municipalities by collecting information on all perceived open space and categorizing it based on Sustainable CT standards, which would assist municipal staff in the collection of certain data required for open space plans, plans of conservation and development, and/or zoning regulations. Following discussion, a motion was made by Ed Mone, seconded by Kurt Miller, and the following roll call vote was taken:

<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>	<u>Absent for Vote</u>
Ms. O'Malley	Mr. Smith	Mr. Chatfield
Mr. Assard	Mr. Temple	
Ms. Zoppo-Sassu	Mr. Merchant	
Mr. Dzieken	Mr. Bertram	
Mr. St. John		
Mr. Hess		
Mr. Miller		
Mr. Lauretti		
Mr. Mone		
Ms. Mancini		
Mr. Dunn		
Ms. Edwards		

The motion carried, and it was therefore

VOTED: To approve NVCOG Resolution 2020-09 to authorize the proposal for funding through the Regional Performance Incentive Program to create a regional inventory of open space parcels in the greater Naugatuck Valley region.

- c. *Approval of NVCOG Resolution 2020-10 – Town Boundaries* – Mr. Dunne provided details for this proposal which would create a statewide municipal boundary layer that meets

Class D survey standards, as defined in Sec. 20-300b-11 of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies. It would benefit the state and all local governments, which currently use a variety of boundary layers, most of which are not based on survey and often differ among municipalities. The Western Connecticut Council of Governments would serve as the lead agency for this project. Following discussion, on a motion by George Temple, seconded by Gerry Smith, it was unanimously

VOTED: To lay this item on the table.

6. NVCOG Planning/Transportation

- a. *Update on Oxford Main Street Study* – Aaron Budris said this alternative transportation plan study is underway. The study will look at the Main Street/Route 67 corridor and how to improve bicycle and pedestrian access and safety. The potential for transit options in the corridor will also be explored.
- b. *Update on Thomaston-Torrington Routing Study* – Mr. Budris said this study is wrapping up. The draft report will be sent to the project committee next week for review.
- c. *Update on Waterbury and Bristol Corridor Study* – Christian Meyer reported that the consultant selection process for both of these studies is underway.
- d. *Update on Freight Plan* – Mr. Meyer said much of the work for the regional freight plan was done last summer in advance of the NVCOG 25 year transportation plan. The work will be revisited and made into its own document; many of the recommendations will stand.

7. Emergency Planning Update

- a. *Regional Emergency Planning Team (REPT)* – Joanna Rogalski reported that CT DEMHS met with Eversource to discuss response on both electric and natural gas service. CT DEMHS is also working with school districts on their annual all-hazard safety and security plan submittals. DEMHS Region 5 has identified a cyber security task force consisting of municipal information technology representatives and others.
- b. *Community Emergency Response Team (CERT)* – Annual reports are due in mid-February, and Ms. Rogalski has contacted emergency management directors about this.
- c. *Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan* – Ms. Rogalski said staff is putting together an RFP to engage a consultant to carry out technical aspects of the mitigation plan. A consultant selection committee has been established.

8. Other

Mr. Dunne explained that resolutions may come to the local legislative bodies of the municipalities concerning the three RPIP applications, the one that was tabled and the two that passed. There may be some requirement that local municipalities approve them. Even though something may have been approved or rejected by the NVCOG representatives, there may be resolutions forwarded to the municipal legislative bodies asking them to approve or reject them. Mr. Dunne did not want anyone to be surprised by this, as it is simply a matter of how the statute was written.

9. **Adjournment**

At 11:36 a.m., on a motion by Rich Dziekan, seconded by Len Assard, it was unanimously

VOTED: To adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted by
Lauren Rizzo
Administrative Assistant
for
Ed Mone, Secretary



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**RESOLUTION OF THE
NAUGATUCK VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS
#2020-08
Proposal
For a Brownfields Center of Excellence Funded Through the
Regional Performance Incentive Program**

Waterbury, Connecticut

I certify that the following is a true copy of the vote of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments on January 10, 2020 in Waterbury, Connecticut, a quorum being established:

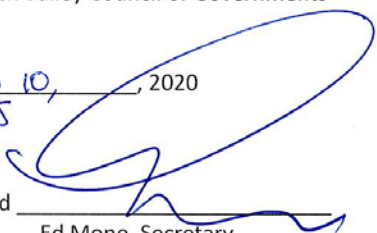
BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council adopted a resolution to authorize staff to apply for funding through the Regional Performance Incentive Program for a Brownfields Center of Excellence and authorized the Executive Director and NVCOG Chairman to execute all documents as required.

The Secretary is authorized to impress the seal of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments on any such documents, amendments, rescission, or revision.

Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut, on January 10,, 2020

Agency: Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Signed


Ed Mone, Secretary

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**RESOLUTION OF THE
NAUGATUCK VALLEY COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

#2020-09

Proposal

**For a Regional Open Space Inventory Funded Through the Regional Performance Incentive
Program**

Waterbury, Connecticut

I certify that the following is a true copy of the vote of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments on January 10, 2020 in Waterbury, Connecticut, a quorum being established:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council adopted a resolution to authorize staff to submit a Regional Performance Incentive Program grant application for a regional open space inventory and authorized the Executive Director and NVCOG Chairman to execute all documents as required.

The Secretary is authorized to impress the seal of the Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments on any such documents, amendments, rescission, or revision.

Dated at Waterbury, Connecticut, on January 10, 2020

Agency: Naugatuck Valley Council of Governments

Signed 

Ed Mone, Secretary

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